



**MP remembered
during tree
dedication ceremony.
See Page 4A**

Vol. 40, Issue 8

News



Black History Month...
Fort Stewart celebrates Black History Month. See story on Page 1B.

Entertainment

There will be a free premier of “The Pacifier” Feb. 26 at 2 p.m. The doors will open at 12:30 p.m. for all ticket holders. General admission will be allowed as seating permits 15 minutes before show time.

Post Update

Bible stories with a Southern drawl? When the upbeat family theater show Cotton Patch Gospel comes to town on Saturday, Mar. 12, audiences will see a distinctly Southern version of some familiar biblical events.

Cotton Patch Gospel is the moving, exuberant bluegrass musical that tells the story of the life of Jesus — but set in modern-day, rural Georgia.

In it, Jesus is born the son of a carpenter in the Appalachian foothills, grows up in Valdosta, meets a country preacher named John the Baptizer on the banks of the Chattahoochee River and delivers the Sermon on the Mount at Stone Mountain Park.

The show will be presented here by the Hinesville Area Arts Council and Fort Stewart Morale, Welfare, & Recreation and is produced by the famous Springer Opera House, the official State Theater of Georgia.

Cotton Patch Gospel will be performing at Club Stewart's Grand Ballroom Mar. 12 at 8 pm.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door and may be purchased at any Heritage Bank location and at the Fort Stewart Leisure Activities Center. The public is welcome.

Come through the Fort Stewart Main Gate, tell the gate guards that you are attending Cotton Patch Gospel and they will give you a show access pass for the evening.

For more information, call 767-8609.

FRIDAY
58° 39°

SATURDAY
63° 43°

SUNDAY
63° 51°

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Col. Mark McKnight, 1st BCT commander, speaks to Iraqi and American leaders while Maj. Gen. John R.S. Batiste, 1st Inf. Div. commander and Col. Randal Dragon, 2nd BCT, 1st Inf. Div. commander, stand out front during a TOA ceremony at FOB Dagger Feb. 14

The little engine that could

Small UAV provides eyes in the sky for battalions

Story and Photo by
Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper
4th Bde. PA NCOIC

The Raven could very well be “the little engine that could” of the unmanned aerial vehicle fleet. Weighing in at four and a half pounds with a five-foot wingspan and stretching a mere 38 inches in length, the Raven is by far one of the smallest vehicles in the Army, but its aerial reconnaissance value has quickly earned the respect of battalion commanders in Iraq and has filled a niche at the battalion level when larger UAVs are unavailable.

“The system is developing the confidence of the leadership,” said Maj. Chris Brown, Kuwait Raven Equipping Detachment officer in charge. “We had one commander’s team find an IED (improvised explosive device) on its first mission, and the com-

mander has been sold ever since.” The Raven flies various missions that aid in force protection. It is flown to search for IEDs, provide reconnaissance for patrols and flies the perimeter of camps.

“When a company or battalion can’t get the larger UAV, such as the Hunter, Shadow and Inet, ... the Raven works very well,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Steve Schisler, Raven integration and customer service officer.

Schisler explained that the Raven is best employed in conjunction with ground forces. “If you have guys doing a mounted or dismounted patrol in a city or a small town, you can have the Raven flying overhead providing far-sight security.”

He continued, “The patrol can’t see past the building 100 meters in front of them, but the Raven can. The Raven can see beyond

the building ... to where two terrorists with their AK-47s are running to engage the patrol. The Soldiers can then respond to the intelligence rather than respond to an attack.”

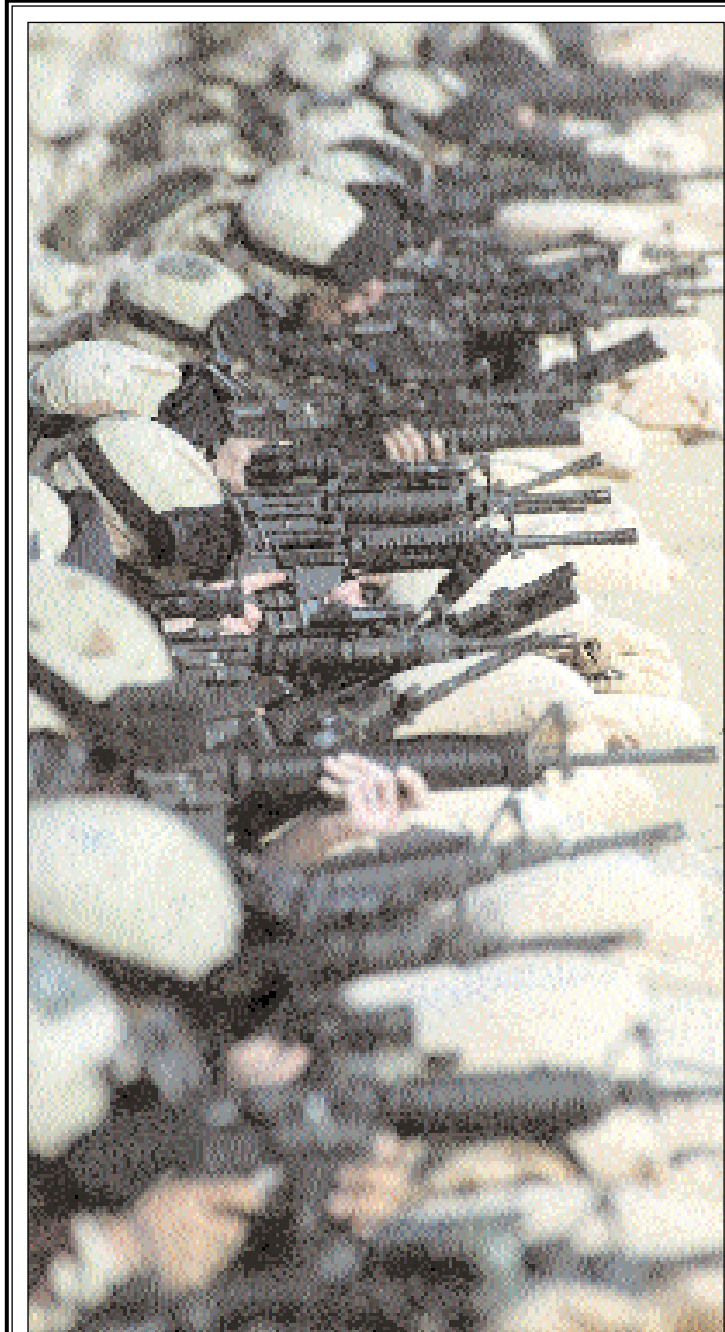
The UAV is small and can be transported easily in three small cases that fit into a ruck sack. The crew can bring it with them and operate wherever the patrol goes.

The Raven three different cameras that attach to the nose of the plain, an electrical optical camera that sends data either through a nose camera or a side camera, an infrared camera in the nose, and a side-mounted IR camera.

The IR technology is still to big to fit into the nose section of the plane, Brown said.

The camera does not have a zoom and is unable to lock on a target but provides enough resolution to show someone carrying a

See UAV ——— 16A



Pfc. Dan Balda

Ready, aim ...

Soldiers from 1/184 Inf. line up to zero their personal weapons and test fire them at Udairi Range. The Modesto, Calif., unit is attached to 4th Bde. for OIF 3.

Raiders’ authority received at Dagger

Story and Photos by
Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st Bde. PAO

TIKRIT, IRAQ — Coalition authority over Salah ad Din province changed hands from 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division to 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, at Forward Operating Base Dagger, Tikrit, Iraq Feb. 14.

The TOA was made official during a ceremony at FOB Dagger.

Incoming Soldiers of 1st BCT have been at Dagger more than two weeks. They have been familiarizing themselves during a relief in place process with what will be their responsibilities over the next year.

The outgoing commander of the 2nd BCT expressed pride at the

chance to have worked with 1st BCT and said he had confidence that they would do an excellent job after 2nd BCT departed.

“As we transition, I want to tell you all it has been a true honor to work with the Legendary Raider Brigade Combat Team,” said Col. Randal A. Dragon, 2nd BCT commander. “These Soldiers are well led, well trained and well prepared to execute this mission. With their continued effort, as with all of our continued commitment, we remained partnered with our Iraqi brothers and we will all someday soon declare victory.”

The incoming commander greeted the leaders of Salah ad Din province and reassured them of the 1st BCT’s intentions during the

See Raiders ——— 16A



Sgt. 1st Class Austin Bergen, an intelligence analyst with 1/76 FA, checks a Raven after being assembled.

More than ‘weekend warriors’ 1/184 ready to serve in Iraq along side 4th Bde.

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th Bde.

The 1st Battalion, 184th Infantry Regiment, out of Modesto, Calif., does not want to people to think of them as “weekend warriors.”

As part of an enhanced National Guard brigade the 1/184 Infantry is equipped with the same modern weapons and equipment as the active Army. The 1/184 Infantry also is allocated additional funding for increased training and a resident training detachment of active Army advisors to assist in operational readiness, according to the unit’s Web site, www.calguard.ca.gov.

Their mission will not be much different from the 1st Cavalry Divisions’, whom the 3rd Inf. Div. is replacing.

“We’ll be patrolling the streets of Baghdad,” said

1st Lt. Matthew McCarthy, a platoon leader for 1/184. “We’ve been tasked to stop the terrorists so the democratic process can continue uninhibited.”

Ready for the challenge that lies ahead in Baghdad, the regiment has been training hard for the last year in preparation for this deployment.

“We’ve been training just as hard as the rest of the brigade,” said McCarthy. “I look forward to a successful mission and getting everybody home safely.”

“This is the unit’s second trip down here (Kuwait),” the Sacramento, Calif., native said. “Last time was during Operation Desert Spring guarding Patriot Missile sites, it’s going to be a little more dangerous this time.”

Besides the last rotation to Kuwait, the unit has a long and illustrious lineage to fall back on, if the

See 1/184 ——— 17A

293rd MPs return home as heroes

Story and Photos by
Sgt. James Strine
Frontline Staff

After a long year in Iraq, the 293rd Military Police Company capped both a heroic and tragic deployment Sunday when they came home to friends’ and families’ open arms.

The ceremony, held at Cottrell Field Sunday Morning, was brief as the excitement of seeing husbands, wives, fathers and mothers could hardly be contained.

“Welcome home dog-face Soldiers,” said Garrison Commander Col. John M. Kidd right after the National Anthem. “Welcome home and

congratulations for a mission accomplished and a job well done.”

Also returning from Iraq were Soldiers from 3-178th Field Artillery and the 343 Quartermaster Company both from South Carolina.

“Each and everyone of you deserve a grateful praise from a grateful nation.” Kidd added.

Arguably, the most moving moments belonged to family members in the crowd. Tensions built up from a long year of fathers and mothers not at home seemed to bubble into an audible chatter at many times drowning the patriotic music and speakers’ speeches. Up until just moments before the crowd

released into the formation of Soldiers anxious to reunite with their families, the families edged closer and closer seemingly wishing the speeches and remarks over.

“I want to thank each and everyone of you,” Kidd said to the crowd of family members, “and for the sacrifices each and every one of you made to make Iraq a safer place.”

Aside from obvious cheer, there were also tears. Over the course of the yearlong deployment, the 293rd suffered two casualties; Most recently in December was Spc. George D. Harrison who was killed in a firefight and in May, sniper fire killed Pfc. Andrew Tuazon.

See 293rd ——— 17A

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS



Marne Six Sends

Rock of the Marne

The Marne team continues to take over operations in Iraq from the 1st Cavalry Division and the 1st Infantry Division. Both of these great Army divisions have done an excellent job of receiving Marne Team units and easing our transition into the mission.

1st Brigade Combat Team and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams are doing a great job for Task Force Liberty to our North.

Our Aviation Brigade, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Brigade Combat Team along with the Division Support Brigade continue to settle into operations in and around their assigned forward operating bases in the greater Baghdad area.

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division will soon complete its move into Iraq. The Soldiers from Fort Riley and Fort Irwin are a terrific addition to our team. It is amazing to see the vari-

ous units from seven installations and seventeen states form into a lethal fighting force. The new Marne team is a perfect example of the superior training and flexibility of the American Soldier.

Our Soldiers continue to do well as we near the completion of our transition with the Soldiers of the 1st Infantry and 1st Cavalry divisions. Hopefully, you will take some comfort in seeing their welcome home ceremonies by knowing that the Marne Team has safely taken over from our friends.

Please join me in extending condolences to the families and friends of Pfc David J. Brangman, Spc. Justin B. Carter, and Sgt 1st Class David J. Salie who died in a recent operations in Iraq. I ask all of you for your continued prayers especially for those Marne Soldiers who have been lost and injured.

Welcome Home to the 293rd MP Company! We received a great report on the unit's home coming and welcome. Get some rest, have some fun seeing family and friends, but above all else take care to return to Fort Stewart safely!

Do not forget that we have over 530 Marne Soldiers, from 110th Quarter Master Co., 416th Transportation Co., 559th Quarter Master Co., 95th TMDE and 179th MPs, who are on missions in theaters separate from the division.

Our mission is unchanged. Our units will soon be in charge of the mission here and to the North. We are trained, have great equipment, but most importantly we have the best warriors on the battlefield.....the Marne Soldier.

Mission.....Soldiers.....Teamwork

"Rock of the Marne!"

Marne Voices

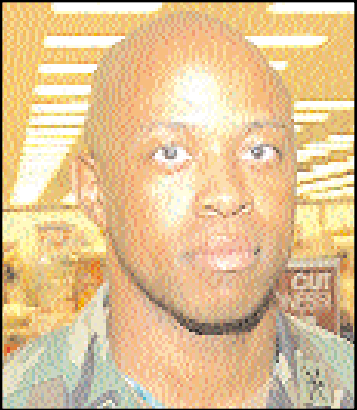
The Frontline

Readers respond to the question:

"Who is the most influential black figurehead in your life?"

"My father, because I come from a larger family and he worked hard so we could achieve dreams that far exceed what he had in mind."

Capt. Gerald Banks
5th Brigade, 87th Division



"Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. because of everything he stood for as far as the black community is concerned and the equal rights movement."

Sgt. Sammy Green
A Company, 2-121st Inf.
Georgia National Guard

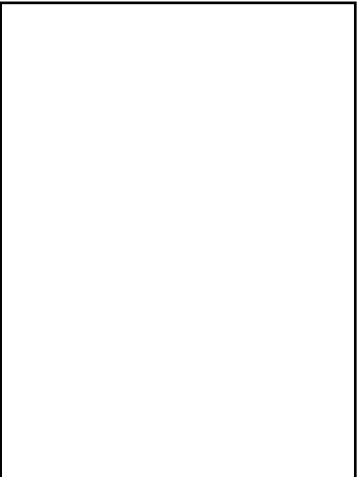
"Martin Luther King Jr. because he was the most influential African American because of his strong beliefs and because he felt so strong enough to do something."

Darlene Wilson
Military Spouse



"My mother because my mom has survived a lot and she has given me a survivor outlook on life. I feel that no matter what happens, I can get through it if I don't give up."

Staff Sgt. Barbara Nobles
MEDDAC



"Morgan Freeman because he always portrays himself in a respectful and honorable way."

Spc. Derrick Stiggers
HHC, 2-121st Inf.
Georgia National Guard



"There's so many to choose from — John H. Johnson (publisher of Jet and Ebony magazines), W.E.B. Duboise, or Booker T. Washington (one of only two black men on a face of a coin)."

Staff Sgt. Deon Williams
B Company, 1-64 Armor



CENTCOM News

Iraqi media reporter kidnapped by terrorists

MOSUL, IRAQ — An Iraqi Media Network worker was kidnapped by terrorists in Mosul Feb. 20.

Iraqi Media Network reporter Raaeda Al-Wazan was abducted while on her way to work. Terrorists contacted the station and threatened to continue to target employees.

The Mosul IMN station has been targeted by terrorists several times in the past week because they have been broadcasting programs that highlighted the negative effects of terrorist activity. Those programs have had rapidly growing support from Iraqi citizens and therefore have caused the station to be targeted.

Terrorists continue to disregard their fellow citizens, as Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Forces continue to perform operations to ensure the safety of Iraqi citizens.

Iraqi, U.S. forces kick off operation River Blitz

CAMP BLUE DIAMOND, IRAQ — Iraqi and U.S. forces increased security operations in and around Ramadi and throughout the Al Anbar Province Feb. 20.

The 1st Marine Division of the I

Marine Expeditionary Force and Iraqi Security Forces kicked off Operation River Blitz, which includes a curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. and other measures to enhance security in and around Ramadi.

"We were asked by the Iraqi government to increase our security operations in the city to locate, isolate and defeat anti-Iraqi forces and terrorists who are intent on preventing a peaceful transition of power between the Interim Iraqi Government and the Iraqi Transitional Government," said Maj. Gen. Richard F. Natonski, commanding general, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

The security measures in and around the provincial capital are designed to ensure the safety of the populace by controlling access into the city. Access control points leading into the city will screen vehicles for terrorists and criminals as well as weapons, munitions and materials to produce improvised-explosive devices.

In conjunction with implementing the security measures in Ramadi, increased security operations also began in several cities along the Euphrates River, including the cities of Hit, Baghdadi and Hadithah.

Operation River Blitz is designed to target criminals and terrorists, who have attempted to

destabilize the Al Anbar Province by terrorizing the populace through wanton acts of violence and intimidation. The 1st Marine Division of the I Marine Expeditionary Force stands committed with the Iraqi Security Forces in disrupting and defeating the anti-Iraqi forces while providing enhanced security to the people of Al Anbar Province.



Iraqi police graduate from Jordan International Police Training Center

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — On Feb. 17, 1,491 police officers graduated after completing the thirteenth basic police training course conducted at the Jordan International Police Training Center.

The basic police training program is designed to provide fundamental and democratic policing skills based on international human rights standards to the students in preparation for assuming police officer responsibilities. The program consists of four weeks of general policing and four weeks of tactical police training.

To date, 11,158 police officers have completed the course which is taught by police trainers from Iraq, Jordan, Canada, Sweden, Slovenia, Austria, Finland, Czech Republic,

Singapore, Poland, Slovakia, Australia, Hungary, Belgium, United Kingdom and United States. The new officers will return to Iraq where they will be assigned to police stations throughout the country.

Iraqi pilots receive C-130 training

BAGHDAD, IRAQ — A five-man crew from Squadron 23 of the Iraqi Air Force trained for the first time on flying and operating an American C-130 cargo plane outside of Iraq's air space.

A crew of U.S. Air Force pilots used a five-hour round-trip flight to Amman, Jordan as a training exercise for the Iraqi pilots and crew members. Five other crews from Squadron 23, of Ali Base in Talil, Iraq, were passengers on the flight, heading to training in Jordan. One crew will continue traveling to the U.S. for Hercules simulator training in Little Rock, Ark., said Wing Cmdr. Robert Greene, of the Multi-National Security Transition Command — Iraq.

All of the squadron members are experienced crews who are strengthening and expanding their skills after a 12-year lapse under Saddam Hussein's rule, Greene said. This was their first time in the seats of a C-130, he added.

The next phase of training will focus on dealing with emergencies, approaches and landings, and general flying skills.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD MASTER PLAN AND ITS EFFECT ON HISTORIC RESOURCES AT HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD, GEORGIA

The Department of the Army hereby gives notice of a determination of an adverse effect to the Strategic Air Command Historic District at Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF). Fort Stewart has entered into consultations with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the effects of the implementation of the HAAF Master Plan on the Historic District.

The consultations address the impacts to historic resources and proposed mitigative actions. All public review comments concerning the project, its effects, and the proposed mitigative actions must be received no later than Mar. 8, 2005. A copy of the consultation letter detailing

the project and the proposed mitigation is available for public review from Feb. 7 to Mar. 8, 2005 at the following libraries.

Hunter Army Airfield Library
BLdg. 1290
165 Markwell Street
Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. 31409
Tues. — Wed.; 11:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Mall Branch Library
7 Mall Annex
Savannah, Ga. 31406
Mon. — Thurs.; 9 a.m. — 9 p.m.
Fri. — Sat.; 9 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Sun. 2 — 6 p.m.

Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum Library
175 Bourne Ave.
Pooler, Ga. 31322
Mon. — Fri.; 10 am — 4 pm

Request all comments be mailed to the following address:

Mr. George Harris
Environmental Division
Directorate of Public Works
HQS, Fort Stewart
1550 Frank Cochran Drive
BLdg. 1137
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4927

Legal Notices

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Staff Sgt. Steven G. Bayow**, B CO/2-7 INF/1BCT, Ft. Stewart, Ga.

31314, contact 1st Lt. Elizabeth Barnhart, G CO/ 3FSB/1BCT, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-3393, or (210) 643-3650.

Anyone having personal property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt.**

Daniel Torres, B CO/2-7 INF/1BCT, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Jacqueline M. Bertrams, G CO/3FSB/1BCT, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-3393, or (912) 223-1196.

Anyone having personal

property, claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Chad W. Lake**, C Troop, 5-7 CAV, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Cory J. Cousins, Division Fires Brigade, Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314, (912) 767-7066.

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Write a letter to the editor!

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626 6TH ST.
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MILITARY NEWS: 767-3440
ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526
THE Frontline OFFICE: 767-8072

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2nd Bde. — Spc. Ben Brody
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Sgt. Anthony Mills, an Operations Sgt. from Valley Stream, N.Y. with A Co. 1/69th, admires the plaque that was awarded to him for his combat support operations. The leadership of the 1/69th designed the award to recognize those Soldiers who are operating in a combat capacity, but not qualified to receive a Combat Infantry Badge.



Spec. Mike Timblin preps the Blue Force Tracker before rolling out on a patrol. Timblin, who is a tanker and not eligible for the Combat Infantry Badge, was also presented a plaque by the leadership of the 1/69th for his role in combat operations.

1/69 Soldiers recognized

Story and Photos by
By Spc. Erin Robicheaux
256th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

CAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad— Soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, were recognized by their command for their service in combat situations Feb.

The 1/69th is an involved infantry battalion, with many of its noncombatant troops participating in missions beyond their certified fields.

Cooks, administrative specialists, and mechanics, are only the tip of the iceberg of the Soldiers who have performed in combat operations.

Even before the plan for the Close Combat Badge was made known, the leadership of the 1/69th wanted their Soldiers to be recognized for their contributions.

The collective group of first sergeants, along with the battalion sergeant major and commander, came up with a design for the plaque that is inclusive for all recipients, no matter what their job is.

Spc. Jason Garcia, from Manhattan, N.Y., is a personnel clerk for Headquarters Co. 1/69th. He had a personal hand in designing the plaque and said the fact that it was a collaborative effort of all of the leadership makes it that much more special.

“All of the first sergeants came up with the verbage and they wanted it to be just right,” he said.

Garcia also claims that the project kept growing bigger and bigger.

“At first it was going to be a certificate, something that the Soldier could frame,” he said, “but everyone felt that it should be more.”

Spc. Mike Timblin of North Tonawonda, N.Y., was awarded the plaque for a mission where he became combat support.

“I drove the colonel on one of his missions and we hit an (improvised explosive device),” Timblin said.

Luckily, the IED wasn’t prepped for detonation and the Soldiers weren’t harmed, but the mission wasn’t over.

“Later on we also took small arms fire and were hit with a (rocket propelled grenade).”

Timblin says that he has also had a few more engagements since.

The plaque, which reads, “Task Force Wolfhound Recognizes You as an Infantryman in Word and Deed,” was awarded to approximately 140 Soldiers. On the bottom is the infamous term, “Garryowen.”

The song is commonly heard among Irish heritage units, and according to Garcia, Lt. Col. Geoffrey Slack, commander of the 1/69th, was adamant about having the term printed on their plaque.

“Lt. Col. Slack came up with the idea to put it on there,” said Garcia, “it’s a part of our history that he’s proud of and wants us to be, too.”



Official Photo



Doug Harrison, father of Spc. George D. Harrison, is handed a ceremonial keepsake following the ceremony by Sgt. Thaddeus Martin.

Living memorial leaves legacy for fallen 3ID MP

Story and Photos by
Sgt. James Strine
Frontline Staff

At the end of Warriors' Walk, next to trees adorned with sun-bleached and wind-torn keepsakes, flags and flowers for fallen Soldiers, a new tree stands swaying centered on a family who has lost a son and brother.

In 3rd Infantry Division custom, a tree was dedicated to Spec. George D. Harrison, 293rd Military Police Company, under sunny afternoon skies Feb. 16.

Harrison was killed Dec. 2 after suffering a fatal gunshot wound during a quick reaction force mission conducted in concert with Iraqi police forces.

The unit's mission was to lay cover fire while another unit extracted Soldiers injured during firefight with anti-Iraqi forces.

"There's no better way to go out," his brother Joshua said in an interview with media after the ceremony.

His parents, Doug and Kim, and his brother were guests of honor and a large turnout of 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers offered condolences after a brief, but heart-felt ceremony.

"It's nice to finally put a face to names that

have been so supportive through this," his father said.

As part of the dedication, Harrison's father received a piece of desert-camouflage sewn with his son's name and Marne Division patch used to unveil the marble stone beneath the Eastern Red Bud tree dedicated in his son's memory.

Following the dedication, the Harrison family took a moment to talk with regional media. Doug recalled his son as a "hero" who had a great sense of humor.

"One of the last times I talked to him out there, I said be careful," he said. "You're my hero."

According to his father, his son replied, "No matter what I have to go through here, it's all worth it to know you're safe at home."

Some members of the 293rd MP Company returned home from Iraq just days before the dedication ceremony; among them was Spc. Joshua Curl, Harrison's "battle buddy" in Iraq. Curl quickly became friends with Harrison through their tour in Iraq, and in interviews after the dedication remembered Harrison loving his "two little wiener dogs" at home and, being a great person with whom to share a bunk and start the day.

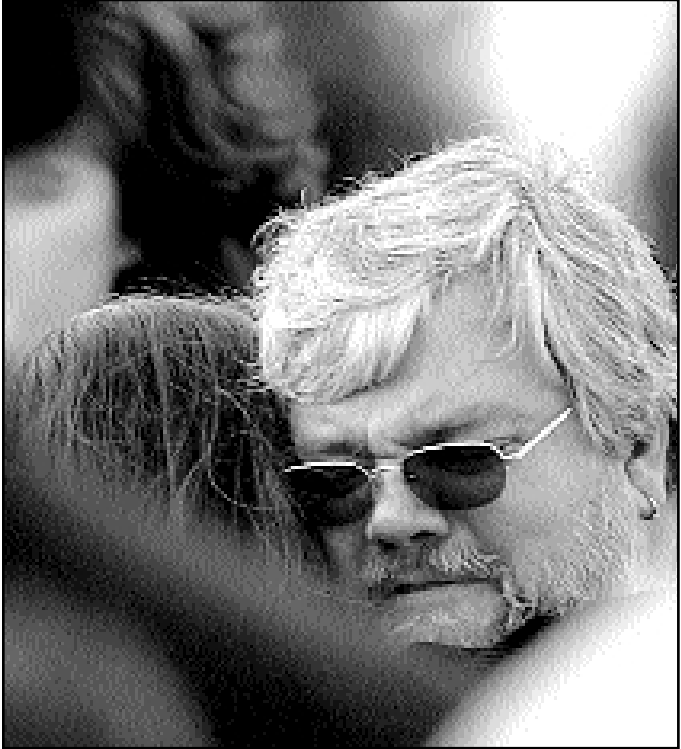
"It means a lot," Curl said of the ceremony. "This dedication is going to be here forever, and that's the way it should be."



Doug Harrison, father of Spc. George D. Harrison, weeps for the loss of his son during the dedication ceremony opening remarks.



Father Doug Harrison and brother Joshua Harrison bow their heads in prayer during the Feb. 16 tree dedication ceremony.



Doug Harrison, father of Spc. George D. Harrison, receives a hug after the tree dedication ceremony in his son's honor.



Sgt. Thaddeus Martin, 293rd Military Police Company, unveils the memorial stone dedicated to Spc. George D. Harrison.

New ed center dedicated

Sgt. Jonathan M. Stack
Editor

Fort Stewart’s new education center is now open. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony held at the education center Feb. 15 to celebrate the opening of the new facility offered to Soldiers, family members and civilians.

The official planning for the new facility began in December 1999.

The education center is 72,514 square feet and includes 26 general-purpose classrooms, laboratories for computer, biological and physical sciences, as well as for languages.

The first college term in the facility began Jan. 10 with a record number of students in attendance despite the deployment of the 3rd Infantry Division, according to the information provided by the center.

This facility will provide residents of Fort Stewart and Liberty County a wide variety of education opportunities and programs.

This facility is exceptionally important to training, educating and providing Soldiers and civilians with the proper resources to maintain the 3rd Inf. Div., said Col. John M. Kidd, garrison commander.

It took a lot of time and effort to make this facility happen.

“This is a fabulous facility and will do a lot for us here,” said the Honorable Thomas J. Ratcliffe, Jr., mayor of Hinesville. “I would like to thank everyone for their role in allowing and making this happen.”

For years, classes and programs held through the Army Education Center were scattered across the post, including the World War II buildings that housed main offices, Carolyn Darsey, educational services officer.

“We were meeting in conference rooms, anywhere we could get,” she said. “This is one of the proudest days of my career.”

There were worries about what would happen once the deployment of the division started but there are about 500 students currently enrolled at the center, she said.

There are currently five schools located in the building — Columbia College, Central Texas College, Savannah Technical College, Webster University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Schools and Programs Offered

Columbia College
A.G.S./B.A. – General Studies
A.S./B.A./B.S. – Business Administration
A.S./B.A. – Criminal Justice Administration

Central Texas College
A.A.S. - Applied Management
A.G.S. – General Studies

Savannah Technical College
Microcomputer Specialist
Certified Nursing Assistant
Medical Office Clerk
Child Care Certificate

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
A.S. – Aircraft Maintenance
A.S. and B.S. – Professional Aeronautics
A.S. and B.S. – Technical Management
B.S. – Technical Management – Logistics
B.S. – Aviation Maintenance Management
M.A.S. – Aeronautical Science
(Management/Operations/Safety)
M.S. – Management

Webster University
M.A. – Computer Resources and Information Management
M.A. – Human Resources Management
M.A. – Management and Leadership
M.B.A. – Business Administration



Pfc. Dan Balda

Soldiers from 1/76 FA move up to a concrete barrier to fire at the a Entry Control Point Range Feb. 7. The target sits in a cutout of an automobile with a pop up target for the driver.

Soldiers maintain training

Pfc. Dan Balda
4th Bde.

With the increasing threat from vehicle borne improvised explosive devices Soldiers are facing in Iraq, training Soldiers to react and defend to this threat has become paramount.

Soldiers assigned to the 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery polished their marksmanship skills at the entry control point range Feb. 7.

“ECP is a fancy name for a gate guard,” said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Bush, the 4th Brigade master gunner. “The only difference between here and Fort Stewart is that there the gate guard is checking for access to the facility, here it’s protecting the Soldier’s lives, so that when they come home from the mission they have a place to relax and recuperate from the stress involved with being

in a combat zone. It’s a vital piece of our mission over there.”

During the training a target moved towards a group of Soldiers and differing rates of speed.

The team of Soldiers must hit the target three times before the target lowers, signaling a successful shot.

“It helps to teach the Soldiers the Rules of Engagement,” Bush went on to say, “and how to implement those rules, and also by their professionalism gives a better picture to the public of how we take care of our people,” Bush said.

Soldiers go through a different set of safety rules on this range than they are used to at Fort Stewart.

“Here we don’t get rodded on and off the range, or have safeties patrolling behind us,” said Pfc. Chester Yoder, 1/76 FA, a native of Danville, Pa. “It’s up to the Soldiers

to check their buddies to make sure their weapons are cleared. It’s more realistic that way.”

Soldiers have been working up to this range since Marne Focus in August, Bush said.

“The training for this range began at home station,” Bush said. “(The command) mandated this training so that Soldiers know how to take care of business (in Iraq), so they are not as lax with the security procedures involved with the ECP. “

The Soldiers will have to do more than just guard the gates, Bush said.

“They train on everything from how to deal with the public on a daily basis, to maintaining good relationships with the local nationals,” Bush said.

Bush also said the most important thing they will be protecting while deployed is their fellow Soldiers.



Catherine Caruso
(left) Charlie Corbel, Hunter Tower chief and Terry Johnson, Hunter air traffic controller, direct airfield operation during OIF3

HAAF — a vital, power projection platform

Nancy Gould
Frontline Staff

In responding to a terrorist attack there are only two choices – take the fight to the enemy or wait until they hit you again. America chose the first. Since the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, global terrorism has been dealt a severe blow. The Taliban was removed from power in Afghanistan, a brutal dictator is gone from Iraq, and the seeds of freedom and democracy have been planted in the Middle East. From Mar. 19 to May 1, 2003, the 3rd Infantry Division and its supporting units displayed extraordinary gallantry by relentlessly attacking over unforgiving terrain during extremely difficult weather conditions against

determined Iraqi forces using both conventional and unconventional tactics to liberate Iraq from the brutal Iraqi regime. The nation is fully committed to the Global War on Terror and the United States Army is committed to meeting America’s security challenges. Earlier this month, the 3rd Infantry Division deployed back to Iraq to assist with the enormous challenge of assisting the Iraqi people rebuild their country after decades of neglect and to ensure the creation of a secure, stable, democratic and peaceful Iraq. When the Army downsized in the early 1990s from an active duty strength of 780,000 Soldiers and 12 divisions to 475,000 Soldiers and 10

divisions, with the two divisions being pulled from Germany, the ability to deploy military forces from the continental United States became crucial. In January, the 15,000 Soldiers of the 3d Infantry Division deployed from Hunter Army Airfield (and 4,500 from Fort Benning) for a second rotation in Iraq. As the world’s most efficient and responsive power projection platform, Hunter Army Airfield is vital to our national defense. During the deployment of the 3rd Infantry Division, agencies at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield moved more than 11,000 pieces of equipment by railcars and convoys in 14 days to the Port of Savannah for onward movement to the Middle East by nine Military Sealift Command

ships. Included in the 11,000 pieces were 1,400 tanks and other tracked vehicles, more than 100 helicopters and 4,000 wheeled vehicles. This deployment was a greater logistical challenge than the deployment two years ago because Marne Division did not bring most of their vehicles with them in January 2002. Rather, they used prepositioned stock. The trucks and railcars leaving Fort Stewart and Hunter were closely coordinated with the arrival of ships at the seaports, ensuring a carefully choreographed schedule that facilitated the loading of each ship and prevented any delays in sailing. Hunter Army Airfield’s 11,375-foot-long runway, inherited from the Air Force when Hunter served as a Strategic Air Command Base in the 50’s and 60’s supporting bomber aircraft such as B-47’s and B-17’s, serves the nation’s rapid deployment needs. During the January deployment, Hunter Army Airfield’s tarmac was buzzing with activity as 35 charter aircraft moved 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers to the Middle East. The runway, the longest Army runway east of the Mississippi River, can also park 50 C-17 strategic airlift aircraft on its apron. In retrospect, many experts have called the carefully planned and choreographed deployment of the 3rd Infantry Division one of the largest, fastest, and most precise deployments of a heavy division in the history of the Army. Hunter Airfield Operations Chief Rick Mansford and his staff were major players in that choreography. “The experience level of Hunter’s Aviation Division team paid high dividends during the Marne’s Division OIF3 deployment,” said Mansford. “We deploy and re-deploy military units— those based on Fort Stewart and Hunter and Reserve Component units mobilizing and demobilizing at Fort Stewart, recurringly. To say we have honed our skills throughout the years is a gross understatement. In fact, nobody comes close to being able to support rapid deployment operations like we can at Fort Stewart and

Hunter Army Airfield. That is a testament to the experience, dedication and professionalism of our civilian workforce,” he said. In addition to serving as the home of the 3rd Infantry Division and other non-divisional and tenant units, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are the major mobilization stations for the Southeastern United States. Since the start of the Global War on Terror, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield have mobilized, trained, deployed and demobilized 35,000 Reserve Component Soldiers from 37 states and one U.S. territory. The Provost Marshall’s Office assisted in those mobilization and demobilization efforts, according to Hunter Police Chief Gregory Odden. “My patrol officers, game wardens and AKAL Security team provided the installation’s first line of security during deployment, starting at the front gate,” said Odden, adding that game wardens also patrolled coastal waterways bordering the installation. “We secured the DAACG, (Air Terminal) where soldiers wait to board planes before deploying and kept unauthorized personnel, who could try to harm our Soldiers or delay their flights, from entering,” he added. “We have never been more committed to caring for our Soldiers at home and their families while they are deployed,” said Lt. Col. Jeffery Goble, Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander. That support includes tax preparation services offered by the Staff Judge Advocate’s office. “Since deployment, we’ve been busy preparing taxes for family members and rear detachment Soldiers,” said Sgt. 1st Class Renee Preston, senior non-commissioned officer at Hunter’s Staff Judge Advocate Office. During deployment, the office continues supporting family members and rear detachment soldiers with the same dedication it gave to deploying Soldiers. As part of the Soldier Readiness Checks, attorneys and paralegals from Hunter’s SJA Office visited Soldier units to provide them with opportuni-

ties to set up wills and power of attorneys for their spouses before deploying. Lt. Col. John Taylor, officer in charge, SJA, said attorneys and paralegals were also on hand at the DAACG just hours before deployment to cover every inconceivable legal issue that could come up during wartime, from personal legal assistance matters to command advice on treatment of detainees or use of force issues.” Goble said other Soldier and family support includes the \$78 million spent on new barracks and \$100 million more spent on barracks construction and renovation for single Soldiers. Military families who occupy the aging stock 1950’s-vintage residences are eagerly awaiting the completion of the first of hundreds of new, spacious, modern town homes to be built by GMH Military Housing, Hunter’s partner in the Army’s Residential Communities Initiative. Hunter will soon break ground on a new fitness center, replacing the current facility with one that features an indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, racquetball courts, weight rooms, aerobics and martial arts studios, a 400-meter outdoor track, and a rock-climbing wall. Across the street from the gymnasium, construction is already underway on a new, outdoor sports complex, with athletics fields and basketball courts. Goble said that as the Army gets smaller, the importance of Hunter Army Airfield has been growing. Today, 5,800 soldiers are stationed at the installation, up from 4,000 a decade ago. One significant sign of the times is the news that Anthony’s Pizza and Popeye’s chicken will soon join Burger King on post, adding some variety to Hunter’s fast-food options and cutting down the lunch lines. “Our garrison staff, rear detachment commanders, and family readiness groups are committed to doing everything possible to support our military families during this difficult and important time in our nation’s history,” Goble said.

Tips to reduce risk of heart disease

Margaret Jones, LPN
Winn Army Comm. Hospital

Coronary Heart Disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States. CHD, caused by a narrowing of the coronary arteries that supply blood to the heart, often results in a heart attack.

Each year, about 1.1 million Americans suffer a heart attack. About 460,000 result in a fatality. Half of the fatalities occur within one hour of the onset of symptoms and before the person can reach the hospital.

Fortunately, everyone can take steps to protect their heart and life and the life of someone else. The key is seeking medical care as soon as possible.

Knowing your risk factors can help you reduce your chances of developing heart disease. There is no single contributing factor that causes heart disease.

The more risk factors you have, the greater the chance of developing the disease.

Unfortunately, some risk factors cannot be changed. Heart disease can be hereditary.

African Americans tend to develop cardiovascular disease related to their increased risk for high blood pressure.

Being a man in a family with a history of relatives who died early due to a heart attack increases the risk of developing a cardiovascular disease.

Remember, women experiencing a heart attack may not have the same symptoms as a man. 1 out of 2 women will develop heart disease. Women are also 9 times more likely to die from heart disease than breast cancer.

You can take charge of your life when it comes to heart disease. For more information, talk to your primary care manager or visit Web site www.americanheart.org or Web site www.nhlbi.nih.gov.

These seven simple suggestions can help you reduce your risk of a heart attack.

1. Get your blood pressure checked regularly.
2. Don't smoke cigarettes.
3. Recognize and treat diabetes.
4. Don't drink alcohol. But, if you like to drink, drink in moderation.
5. Be physically active.
6. Maintain a healthy diet.
7. Have regular medical check-ups. Your age and medical history will determine how often you should be seen.



Photo by Sgt. Thomas Benoit

A released Iraqi gladly takes a cigarette lighter with the tips hotline number engraved on it on Feb. 17, during a detainee release by the 256th Brigade Combat Team. Former inmates from Abu Graib prison were dropped off at an undisclosed location inside the city limits of Baghdad.

175th Maintenance Company finishes successful deployment, returns to Ft. Stewart

Story and Photo by
Spc. Robert Adams
50th PAD

The 175th Maintenance Company received a welcome home ceremony Feb. 16 at Caro Gym after deploying for a year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Family and friends rushed to their loved ones after waiting the night and ceremony to see Soldiers from the Columbia, S.C. unit.

“This is like a dream,” said B.J. Smith, wife of Maj. Ricky Smith, 175th Maint. Co. commander. “I sent boxes, mail and pictures of the children frequently to keep him up to date with our daily lives back here.”

According to Maj. Smith, the company far exceeded expectations.

The unit, which deployed Feb. 15, 2004, returned to Fort Stewart with 188 Soldiers out of 218, but with no casualties.

The 175th Maint. Co.’s mission in Iraq was to support maintenance repairs and services to all types of vehicles in Iraq. While in theater, the unit up armored more than 7,000 vehicles for units throughout Iraq.

“The job we did saved the lives of the people going to battle,” said 1st Sgt. Ronnie L. Bush, 175 Maint. Co. first sergeant.

The unit will now out process from Stewart and head back to their home station where they will get back to business.



Major Rick Smith, commander, 175th Maintenance Company, hugs his wife B.J. for the first time in a year after a Welcome Home ceremony at Caro Gym.



(Top) A 850th Transportation Company Soldier enjoys his time with his family at their welcome home ceremony. (Right) Two girls cry out of joy as they see their father enter Caro Gym after returning from Iraq.



Welcomes home 498th and 850th Transportation Co.’s

Story and Photos by
Spc. Robert Adams
50th PAD

Both the 498th Transportation Company, which arrived to Fort Stewart Feb. 8, and the 850th Trans. Co., which arrived Friday were greeted by family and friends at welcome ceremonies held at Ca ro Gym.

Both units returned from their deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

At each ceremony, the units stood at attention, while receiving coins, congratulations, and singing the Army song, awaiting the call to be released to their families.

While in Iraq, each unit received support and supplies from home from their families and members of their local communities.

After out processing from Fort Stewart, each unit will

return to their home cities where they will receive yet another welcome home celebration.

498th Trans Co.

About 125 Soldiers from the 498th Trans. Co., a reserve unit from Mobile, Ala., got the opportunity to see family and friends Feb. 8 for the first time since deploying Dec. 29, 2003.

Though injuries occurred to the unit, every Soldier returned from the deployment.

While in Iraq, 498th Trans Co. successfully ran supplies, food, and water to bases all over Iraq and conducted barrier missions during the Iraqi elections.

“Despite the danger, hostile activity and things we endured out on the road, the guys kept their morale up,” said Cpl. Carl Sanders, Jr., 498th Trans. Co. truck driver.

“With the things we have been through and that happened to us, to see everyone here with

their families is a blessing.

Sanders father Carl Sanders, Sr., a former Soldier, was one of many family members glad to see his son come home.

“I worried quite a bit about him and it is good to see him again,” Sanders said.


850th Trans Co.

About 125 850th Trans. Co. Soldiers, a U.S. Army reserve unit from Lyon, Mississippi, returned to cheers from family and friends for the first time Friday since being called to action Feb. 22, 2004.

The 850th Trans. Co., which was based in the Baghdad area, provided transportation missions throughout the Iraq.

“Our Soldiers did a wonderful job in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom by supporting more than 40 units in the Baghdad area and throughout Iraq,” said Capt. Peter Clinton, 850th Trans. Co. commander.

POLICE REPORTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Specialist, 19-year-old male, separate unit.• Charge: Shoplifting.• Location: Fort Stewart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Private, 22-year-old male, 4th Bde.• Charges: Wrongful appropriate of government, driving on suspended driver's license.• Location: Fort Stewart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 4th Bde.• Charge: Military assault on officer executing duty.• Location: Fort Stewart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Sergeant, 33-year-old male, separate unit.• Charges: Failure to yield to oncoming traffic, failure to obey general order.• Location: Fort Stewart.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Sergeant, 39-year-old male, 4th Bde.• Charge: Defective headlight.• Location: Fort Stewart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Sergeant, 25-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.• Charges: Driving on post revocation, loud music, no insurance, leaving motor vehicle unattended and running.• Location: Fort Stewart.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 4th Bde.• Charge: Military assault on officer executing duty.• Location: Fort Stewart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 4th Bde.• Charges: Driving on suspended license, speeding 42/30.• Location: Fort Stewart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Family member, 24-year-old female.• Charge: Driving while license suspended or revoked.• Location: Fort Stewart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Private 1st Class, 19-year-old male, 4th Bde.• Charge: Underage drinking.• Location: Fort Stewart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Private, 22-year-old male, 1st Bde.• Charges: Driving under the influence, failure to appear, speeding, driving while license is suspended, no insurance, suspended registration.• Location: Hinesville.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Private, 25-year-old male, 4th Bde.• Charge: False report of AWOL.• Location: Fort Stewart.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject: Civilian, 26-year-old female.• Charges: Driving with no insurance, driving on suspended license, expired registration.• Location: Hunter.

3ID IN BRIEF


Stewart	Hunter	Winn /Tuttle
<p>Monthly Retirement Ceremony</p> <p>This event is being held in the Club Stewart Ballroom, today at 2 p.m.</p> <p>For more information call 767-8779.</p> <p>Bowling and Golf</p> <p>Free bowling and shoe rental at Marne and Hunter Lanes, 1 — 5 p.m., the last Saturday of the month, for Soldiers and family members.</p> <p>No golf fees at Taylors Creek and Hunter Courses from 1 — 5 p.m., the last Thursday of every month.</p> <p>Golf cart rental, \$7 per person for 9 holes or \$12 for 18 holes.</p> <p>Red Cross CPR Instructors</p> <p>If you are a current CPR/First Aid Instructor with the American Red Cross, you need to register with the Savannah Chapter — Liberty Branch to keep your certification current.</p> <p>You can call 876-3975 or visit the local office in the Winn-Dixie Shopping Center between Goodwill and Pro-Feet for more information.</p> <p>Track and Field/Soccer</p> <p>Registration is open and</p>	<p>Tax Center</p> <p>Tax Center is now open to assist military ID card holders prepare their tax returns. The center can file your return electronically, and arrange direct deposit of refunds. Preparers can assist while you wait, or drop-off your return, and pick it up when it is ready to file.</p> <p>The tax center is at the legal center, located in Bldg 1211, directly across from the Garrison Headquarters, from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m., weekdays. Call 303-3675/3697 for more information.</p> <p>Recycle your old phone book</p> <p>2005-06 Savannah telephone directories are now available. Bins for recycling old phone books will be available at the HAAF and Fort Stewart recycling centers.</p> <p>Recycling Hours</p> <p>New hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4 pm. The center has an after hour drop-off, located outside of the fenced area. Use weekends or after 4 pm to deposit pre-sorted recyclables. Call 240-0322 for more information..</p> <p>DECA Scholarship</p> <p>Commissary scholarship applications are due Monday and must be</p>	<p>Newborn TRICARE Prime</p> <p>Parents now have 60 days from the date of birth to enroll their newborn in TRICARE Prime. If the 60-day window is not met, the child will be automatically enrolled in TRICARE Standard.</p> <p>You must enroll your child in DEERS before you can enroll into TRICARE.</p> <p>For more information, 767-4909 or 352-5726. Call TRICARE at 1-800-444-5445.</p> <p>TRICARE Phone Numbers</p> <p>For general health care information, you can call the Humana Military Audio Library at 877-217-7946.</p> <p>For more information of if you have questions about TRICARE, you can call TRICARE at 800-444-5445 or the Health Benefits Office at 370-6633 or 800-652-9221.</p> <p>EDIS</p> <p>Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening. Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and</p>
<p>FREE to all current CYS members living on or off post.</p> <p>All children must have a current physical on file at time of registration.</p> <p>For more information, call 767-2312/4371.</p> <p>Library</p> <p>Read a Poem to Your Sweetheart — Schedule a 30 minute appointment to record a DVD of you reading to your sweetheart, from 1 to 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Cooking Class</p> <p>Cooking Class - at Club Stewart from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$5. Advance signups required by today.</p> <p>For more information call 368-2212.</p>	<p>turned in at the commissary. Children of active, reserve, retired or deceased service members can compete for merit-based awards up to \$1,500.</p> <p>Dependents age 21 (or 23, if a full-time student) who will be attending college in 2005-06 are eligible. For more information, see Web site www.militaryscholar.org.</p> <p>Free Child Care</p> <p>Free Child Care for dependents of deployed service members is available at Hunter Child Development Center the first Saturday of each month. The registration fee is waived, but you must enroll child with CDC. Reservations, blue registration card, and acopy of orders are required. For more information, call 352-6115 or 352-6075.</p> <p>Golf Tournament</p> <p>Play with collegiate golfers from around the nation during ther GEICO Invitational College-Am on March 11.</p> <p>Shotgun start at 11:45 a.m. Also, come out and watch the Collegiate Tourn on March 12 and 13.</p> <p>For more information on how to participate in this tournament, call 352-5622.</p>	<p>language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments. For more information, call 370-6370.</p> <p>Walk to Winn Program</p> <p>This 12-week walking program is designed to increase activity, water intake and fruit and vegetable consumption. Registration begins today and spaces are limited.</p> <p>For more information, call 370-5071 to reserve your place.</p> <p>New Tuttle Pharmacy Hours</p> <p>The pharmacy is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday and Friday. It is open 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 2 to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays. It is closed week-ends and federal holidays.</p> <p>Strategy for Staying Healthy</p> <p>Upon completion of the class, individuals will be given an over-the-counter pharmacy card for use at Winn and Tuttle. The next class at Winn is 2 to 3 p.m. March 10. Tuttle's next class is 10 to 11 a.m. March 24.</p> <p>To register, call Community Health Nursing at 370-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.</p>

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Ad Council

Coalition on Donation

Ask the Judge

Debt Collectors and Your Legal Rights

If you use credit cards, have a car loan, or are paying off a student loan or home mortgage, then you, like most other Americans, are a "debtor." With luck, you will never come in contact with a debt collector. But if you do, you should know that there is a federal law to make sure you are treated fairly.

In the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, the U.S. Congress prohibited debt collection practices considered to be abusive. Of course, the law does not erase any legitimate debt that you owe, but it does help protect you from unfair harassment, intimidation, and deception. When a debt collector contacts you, remember that you have legal rights, demand written verification of the alleged debt, and immediately schedule an appointment to see a legal assistance attorney by calling 767-8809 or -8819.

Q: Who is a debt collector?

A: A debt collector is anyone, other than the original creditor or the creditor's attorney, who regularly collects debts for others, i.e. third parties trying to collect on a debt.

Q: How may a debt collector contact you?

A: A debt collector may contact you in person, by mail, telephone, or telegram. However, a debt collector may not contact you at inconvenient or unusual times or places, such as before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m., unless you agree. A debt collector may not contact you at work if your employer disapproves. (The military considers military supervisors and commanders to be "employers." So a debt collector who contacts you at your on-post office or worksite is violating the law, if your commander or supervisor prohibits such contact.)

Q: Can you stop a debt collector from contacting you?

A: You may stop a debt collector from contacting you by writing a letter (or having a Legal Assistance attorney write a letter for you) to the collection agency telling them to stop. Once they receive this letter, they may not contact you again, except to say there will be no further contact.

Q: May a debt collector contact any other person concerning your debt?

A: If you have an attorney, like a Legal Assistance attorney, the collector may not contact anyone but the attorney. If you do not have an attorney, a debt collector may contact other people, but only to find out where you live or work. The debt collector is not allowed to tell anyone other than you or your attorney that you owe money. In most cases, debt collectors may not contact any person more than once.

Q: What is the debt collector required to tell you about the debt?

A: Within 5 days after you are first contacted, the debt collector must send you a written notice telling you the amount of money you owe, the name of the creditor to whom you owe the money, and what to do if you feel you do not owe the money.

Q: If you believe you do not owe the money, may a debt collector continue to contact you?

A: The debt collector may not contact you if you send the collector a letter within thirty days after you are first contacted saying you do not owe the money. However, a debt collector can begin collection activities again if you are sent proof of the debt, such as a copy of the bill.

Q: What types of debt collection practices are prohibited?

A: Harassment is prohibited. Debt collectors may not harass, oppress, or abuse any person. For example, debt collectors may not:

- Use threats of violence or harm to property or reputation.
- Publish a list of consumers who refuse to pay their debts (except to a credit bureau).
- Use obscene or profane language.
- Repeatedly use the telephone to annoy someone.
- Telephone people without identifying themselves.
- Advertise your debts.

False statements are prohibited. Debt collectors may not use any false statements when collecting a debt. For

example, debt collectors may not:

- Falsely imply that they are an attorney or government representative.
- Falsely imply that you have committed a crime.
- Falsely represent that they operate or work for a credit bureau.
- Misrepresent the amount of the debt.
- Indicate that papers being sent are legal forms when they are not.
- Indicate that papers being sent are not legal forms when they are.
- Give false credit information about you to anyone.
- Send you anything that looks like an official court document or government document.
- Use any false name.

Also, debt collectors may not say that:

- You'll be arrested if you do not pay your debt.
- They will seize, garnish, attach, or sell your property or wages, unless the collection agency or the creditor intends to do so, and it is legal for them to do so.
- Actions will be taken against you which legally may not be taken.

Unfair Practices are prohibited. Debt collectors may not engage in unfair practices in attempting to collect a debt. For example, debt collectors may not:

- Collect any amount greater than your debt, unless allowed by law.
- Deposit a post-dated check before the date on the check.
- Make you accept collect calls or pay for telegrams.
- Take or threaten to take your property unless this can be done legally.
- Contact you by postcard.
- Put anything on an envelope other than the debt collector's address and name.

Even the name can't be used if it shows that the communication is about the collection of a debt.

Time is of the essence in dealing with debt collectors, so remember to contact the legal assistance office at 767-8819 or -8809 as soon as possible after a debt collector contacts you.

Solo repair technician shows he is one of a kind

Story and Photo by
Staff Sgt. Merriion LaSonde
*122nd Mobile
Public Affairs Detachment*

CAMP RUSTAMIYAH, Baghdad, Iraq — Being wounded in action is a fear of most deployed Soldiers. However, there is a danger out there that many Soldiers forget about – the rigors of everyday life. Life threatening emergencies like heart attacks or strokes don’t stop in a combat zone. If this happens to you, you want be able to trust the medical equipment the hospital is using. Spc. Bryan King agrees.

A 26-year-old native of Dallas, Texas, King is a medical equipment specialist with Echo Company, 115th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, and he takes his job very seriously.

“You have to take it seriously because whether or not a machine works could mean someone’s life,” King explains. “It is more than taking pride in a job well done. I remember a time at the hospital in Heidelberg working in the (Emergency Room) when a lady came in with a heart attack and they called me in to record what was going on. I knew the EKG monitor worked fine because I had just repaired it.”

King received his training at the Bio-Medical Equipment Technician School, a multi-service school located on Shepherd Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas.

“We are a pretty small (military

occupational specialty),” said King. “I think there are about 500 of us that are active. I have run into people I went to school with or were instructors at the school on five or six occasions.”

After completing the 11-and-a-half-month-long course, King applied the skills of his new trade at his first duty station in Heidelberg, Germany.

King’s next tour brought him to the “Cav,” which in turn brought his much-needed expertise to Iraq.

“I was the first 91A they had in this brigade,” said King. “They weren’t sure what to do with me at first so I had to build my shop from the ground up. After everyone realized what I did, things really smoothed out.”

Responsible for all the medical equipment in the 1st BCT’s area of operations, King travels between the brigade’s three forward operating bases trouble shooting and repairing equipment as needed.

King said there are about 12 pieces of equipment that he is responsible for. “I travel out to the other clinics to maintain all the equipment. We have x-ray machines, the digital x-ray processor, echo cardiogram machine, dental compressors, defibrillators, bio-science monitors and ventilators,” he said.

King explained that while being a one-man-shop affords him the freedom to perform his mission, it has the disadvantage of keeping him running all day.

“This job can keep you busy if you let it get out of control,”

explained King. “If you let your scheduled services slack off then you end up having a lot of repairs to do. Repairs are what take up most of your time because you have to figure out what’s wrong.

“This type of shop is also a lot easier compared to when I worked at a hospital. The hospital gave me a lot of experience on various pieces of equipment which helped me on my own here,” he said.

King said even though the job is intensive, he enjoys what he does.

“I love my job. It has a tendency to remind you not to get too arrogant. You can work on the same piece of equipment 10 different times and still find a problem you never would have guessed. I like that about my job. It keeps challenging me. And there is enough variety in the equipment that it doesn’t get monotonous,” he said.

King’s love of math, his job and all things electronic aided him in helping the Iraqi Ministry of Health repair many pieces of vital medical equipment, in addition to his own responsibilities.

“A lot of the Iraqi equipment we fell in on had been taken apart and was dirty, but some of it was still in good shape,” said King. “There was a huge variety of it from the stand-up microscopes they use in operating rooms to small pieces of lab equipment like a centrifuge. I spent most of my time trying to identify what it was and who made it. Then I tried to get a general idea of what was wrong with it. There is only so much you can do without a manual and I did not



Spc. Bryan King, a medical equipment specialist with Echo Company, 115th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, trouble shoots a suction apparatus that doctors use to clear excess fluids away from the site of a wound.

have those manuals. I repaired everything I could. On some of the more complex pieces of equipment, I can’t just open it up and look at the circuit board.”

With a little help from his friends, King cleaned and repaired about 30 pieces of local equipment.

“Now we have a connex full of

equipment, about 55 pieces in all, that is ready for the Ministry of Health to pick up,” said King. “The pieces that are working can be shipped out to the places that need it. The Ministry has technicians with the manuals and ability to order parts for the pieces that still need some work. They will be able to fix them faster than I can.”

Caro Gym site of homecoming for 331 National Guardsmen, Reservists and exuberant family members

Story and Photos by
Nancy Gould
Frontline Staff

Donald Canerdy sat alone in a bottom row bleacher at Caro Gym on Feb. 18 holding slightly wilted flowers for his wife of 24 years. His three sons, 8-year-old twins and a 10-year-old, wait at home for their mother's return from Iraq.

At 10:30 p.m., three hours after he arrived waiting for his wife, 1st Sgt. Patricia Canerdy, and 312 other reservists and guardsmen's homecoming, the group marched into the gym before the anxious crowd of nearly 1,000 to an explosion of shouts, cheers and whistles from family members, deployment staff and volunteers.

Maj. Gen. Don Speirs, South Carolina Adjutant General, Army National Guard, gave a brief welcome before allowing family members to come out of the bleachers and onto the gym floor to find their service member for teary-eyed reunions.

The deployment that began one year earlier was almost over. But if Donald and Patricia Canerdy want to leave together, they must wait three additional days in Hinesville for the de-mobilization process to end, along with all the other units.

"I can wait," said the quiet-spoken Donald Canerdy, an electrician who worked a night shift while a sitter stayed with his children this past year. Canerdy did not endure the year-long separation from his spouse alone.

Families of the 15 deployed members of the 591st Army Reserve Transportation Company, TC, in Chattanooga, Tenn. shared that experience along with their friends and family.

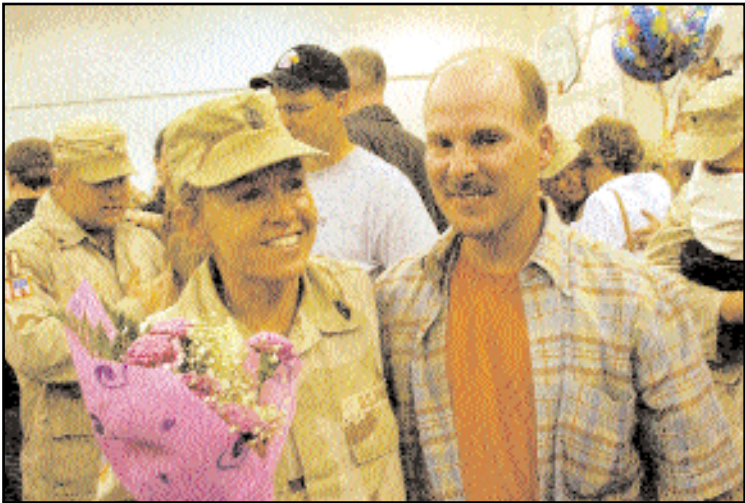
"My boys and I got a lot of support from my neighbors in Sand Mountain, Ala., where we live," Canerdy said. "They are proud of Patricia and they were supportive of me. The best way I encouraged Patricia during her separation from the kids was to take good care of them. It was tough but it gave me and my boys a chance to get closer."

Four other units deployed for OIF III with the 591st TC unit. They included five members of the 204th PI Det from Orlando Fla.; 24 members of the 51st CPS in Timmonsville, S.C.; 226 members of the 178th Field Artillery in Lancaster, S.C.; and 42 members of the 1103 Military Police in Harrodsburg, Ky.

Kelli Norwood, wife of Spc. Mike Norwood, 178th Field Artillery, is accompanied by 23 month-old Banx, 10-year-old Alex, and Mike's father and step-mother.

"Mike missed a lot with our baby," said Kelli Norwood. "We got a web camera installed on our computer so we could talk and see each other weekly. The baby would say 'daddy' whenever he passed the computer. Now he can finally get to know him again in person."

"The homecoming is the best part of the deployment process," said Brad Seifert, a transportation specialist since 2001 at Fort Stewart's Deployment Control Headquarters, DCH. Seifert works with Soldiers, Guardsmen and Reservists from the time they get off the plane until they're reunited with their families at the homecoming ceremony. "The process is routine," he said, explaining that they are first processed in at Hunter Army Airfield's Departure and Arrival Control Group Facility, DAACG, and



1st Sgt. Patricia Canerdy holds tightly to flowers in one arm and her husband, Donald in the other.



Cynthia Sinclair sits with daughters, 2-year-old Lamaria and 14-year old Quanshia. Seven-year-old Matthew (4th from left) can't wait to 'jump on' dad, also known as, Pvt. Matthew Sinclair. Nine-year-old Matthew Sinclear sits with uncle Theo. The family will stay in Hinesville until Pvt. Sinclair is released Monday, Feb. 21.

put on buses for Fort Stewart as quickly as possible. MPs lead the bus procession from Hunter to Fort Stewart. "Because everyone knows their duties, delays are minimal on our end," Seifert said, adding that Department of Logistic bus drivers are familiar with

homecoming routes to ceremony sites. An extra bus accompanies each procession in case of a break down. After the ceremony they are briefed by the Mobilization Team Operational Center which takes about three days. Seibert said this part of his job is



Service members had difficulty suppressing smiles as they marched in formation into Caro Gym.



22-month-old Kaydence Plyler, mother Kristawait for Spc. Ira Plyler. Krista and husband were high school sweethearts and were married only two weeks before he deployed.

extremely gratifying— it's often the 'little things' that touch him. "For instance, the anxious kid who rushes out ahead of time to meet a parent," he said, "or a wife who comes up and says, 'thanks for getting him home.'"

John Menard, a volunteer with the Vietnam Veterans of America, Liberty Chapter 789 agrees— he finds great satisfaction in his volunteer services at the homecoming ceremonies.

His chapter members have rarely missed a homecoming event from Iraq. They welcome family members, greet service members, and hold up welcome home signs, something that was not done when they returned from their Vietnam tours.

"Being here now for our Soldiers helps to heal that era in my own life, said Menarda. "We'll continue to be here no matter what time our Soldiers get home.

Raiders from Page 1A

Soldiers’ stay in Iraq. “What will not change is the level of commitment by the Soldiers of this BCT,” said Col. Mark McKnight, 1st BCT commander. “The Soldiers represented by this formation will continue to fight alongside the Iraqi Security Forces and the provincial leaders in defeating terrorists who threaten the future of a free Iraq.”

McKnight also thanked the Iraqi forces for their work and sacrifices in working towards an ultimate and shared goal.

“On behalf of the Soldiers of this BCT, I salute the bravery and courage of the Iraqi Security Forces, the provincial and city leaders and the good citizens of Salah ad Din province who defy terrorists every day,” McKnight said. “These great people fight for the future of this nation and the future of their families and their children.

Freedom will always come at a cost. In the long history of Iraq, we will only be here for a very short time. We will devote ourselves during this time to helping and partnering with the Iraqi people for a better future.”



Col. Mark McKnight, commander, 1st BCT, hands off colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Gallagher, command sergeant major, 1st BCT, during a transfer of authority ceremony at FOB Dagger Feb. 14.

While this TOA was for 1st BCT and 2nd BCT Headquarters, individual battalions under both brigades held separate TOAs.

•Task Force 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment was replaced by Task Force 1st Battalion, 128th Armor Regiment Dec. 26, 2004.

•Task Force 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment was replaced by Task Force 1st Battalion, 103rd Armor Regiment on 3 January.

•Task Force 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment was replaced by Task Force 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment on 10 February.

•The 9th Engineer Battalion was replaced by 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment/Brigade Troops Battalion on 12 February.

•Task Force 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment was replaced by Task Force 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment on 13 February.

•Task Force 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment will be replaced by Task Force 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment on 16 February.

•The 299th Forward Support Battalion will be replaced by the 3rd Forward Support Battalion on 18 February.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper

Maj. Chris Brown, Kuwait Raven, officer in charge, Equipping Detachment, goes over the basics of operating the software for the Raven unmanned aerial vehicle with operators from 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

UAV — from 1A

weapon.

"You have to select what camera is going to be best for the mission at hand," Brown said. "For example, if you're flying over a city and there are shadows, the IR camera can penetrate the shadows and show the hotspots."

He added, "The average Apache pilot would say that the IR on this is better than the Apache, and I would have to agree,"

One of the advantages of the Raven is that it provides real time data that can be recorded to a video camera.

The Raven has about 45 to 60 minutes of flight time on a battery. The kit comes with spare batteries and a charger that plugs into a Humvee so they can

land it, pop in a spare battery and get it back in the air.

Schisler's role with the Raven had him travel throughout Iraq to provide customer service to units who flew the UAV. The longest continuous operation Schisler recalled was for more than 10 hours, where they would land the plane, change batteries and launch the aircraft again.

Where large UAVs need space to taxi and land, the Raven is launched by hand and requires one pilot and a second person to monitor the incoming information.

Brnow said, "The Raven is not MOS specific, but rather the question is who can the unit use?"

One example Brown gave was the

food service specialists in Iraq have a smaller role because the food services are contracted to Kellog, Brown and Root.

"One of the best pilots in the 1st Cav. is a cook, but that doesn't mean we don't have ... scouts operating the Raven," he said. "Some of these kids have been raised with Playstation in their hands and are better able to handle watching a screen and controlling the aircraft."

A single Raven costs about \$35,000 and the total system costs \$250,000 but that is a cheap OH-58C, Brown said.

"With this system, we replace a helicopter and crew that's down range and put a system at risk rather than people," he added.



Sgt. 1st Class Hayden H. Deland, senior intelligence analyst for 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, attaches the nose camera to the Raven unmanned aerial vehicle as Sgt. 1st Class Austin Bergan, 1/76 FA, 3rd Inf. Div., looks on.

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The two Soldiers’ presence was not absent however; brief moments of silence reminded the crowd of the sacrifices and the ultimate price paid for freedom. Before jumping in their cars, even, every Soldier lined up single file to touch the trees planted at Warriors’ Walk for their fallen comrades. They also left behind small American flags in the two Soldiers’ honor.

By the time each Soldier had walked by the two Eastern Red Bud trees, there was no mulch to be seen underneath, instead a sea of red, white and blue flags remained as if to say a grateful nation was still behind them even in their absence.

Next for the 293rd, after much-deserved rest and relaxation, is a hasty return to their training schedule so that they may be ready again to answer the call of duty.



Staff Sgt. Armand Hebert, 293rd MP Company, with Armand Jr. and wife Connie head home after a year long hiatus from one another.



293rd MPs line up to pay respect to their fallen comrades who now live on as a living memorial at Warriors' Walk.



Capt. Jason Jajack kisses wife Lisa after arriving home from Iraq Sunday morning.

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need be.

The unit was organized in 1864 in the California Militia at Sacramento as the Sacramento Light Artillery. They were redesignated by the Organized Militia of California as the California National Guard in 1866, according to the unit’s Web site.

1/184 has received campaign participation credit in World War I and II, and Korea. They have received the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation as well as the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation.

During World War II, the 1/184 had the honor of being the only National Guard regiment to regain lost American territory in Alaska from a foreign enemy. The unit was the first to do so since the War of 1812.

Another World War II first was achieved during the Pacific island hopping campaigns. The regiment participated in the battle for Kwajalein. They were the first National Guard unit to seize and hold territory that Japan held prior to the start of the war, according to the military museum Web site, www.militarymuseum.org/184th.html.

As the line blurs between active-duty and reserve forces, the 1/184th Inf. is ready to meet the challenges ahead and serve beside their fellow Soldiers.